

Meeting of the Board of Education Sub-Committee on Locally Awarded Verified Credit
July 24, 2002 - Fifth Floor West Conference Room, General Assembly Building

Board Members in Attendance: Mark Christie, Audrey Davidson, Mark Emblidge, Susan Genovese (Chair), Scott Goodman, and Gary Jones. Also present Jo Lynne DeMary, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and gave brief opening remarks.

Mr. Charles W. Finley, assistant superintendent for accountability, was asked to review the public comment that had been received on the proposal. He reported that the majority of the comment generally supported the proposal but there was a significant amount of comment opposed to using the results of the Stanford 9 test as a part of the math component. There was support for an appeals process in the math component similar to the proposal for science and history.

Following the review of comment, the chair opened the floor for comment from the committee and other members of the Board.

Dr. Jones opened the discussion by expressing his continued displeasure with the math proposal and suggested that he could support the proposal submitted by the Loudoun County Public Schools that included an appeals process in the math component. He also asked that the Board publicly address students with disabilities and the testing program since some parents submitted comment expressing concern about their inclusion in the testing program.

Mr. Christie responded that Mrs. Genovese has been charged to look into this issue and report to the Board at its September meeting. He gave a brief overview of the charge given her that includes a review of the current accommodations available to these students and whether there is a need for additional ones. Mrs. Genovese indicated that she would be meeting with staff of the Department of Education on August 13 to begin her work.

Dr. Jones expressed concern that it appears that parents of students with disabilities were not aware of what is available to them and that they need to get as much information as possible.

Mr. Christie outlined a proposal he will offer to clarify options available to students to earn verified credit using the numerous substitute tests and career and technical certifications approved by the Board for that purpose. This would include language regarding the substitute tests in English even though this subject is not included in the proposal.

Mr. Emblidge responded that we should take every opportunity that comes along to set the record straight on these matters.

Dr. DeMary stated that she has instructed staff of the Department of Education to have concurrent sessions related to the flexibility available in the accountability system and any conference we attend or participate in.

Mrs. Genovese indicated that the purpose of the proposal is to provide another alternative to catch as many students as possible.

Dr. Jones raised the issue of fairness for the students who might not have an opportunity to take the Stanford 9 test for whatever reason. He passionately defended his position for an appeal process for math.

Following additional discussion regarding the mathematics component of the proposal, the chair called for closing comments.

Mr. Goodman expressed his opposition to locally awarded verified credit but stated that he could live with the proposal for science and history.

Mr. Emblidge stated that he does not support using the Stanford 9 and that the Board should eliminate math from the proposal. Mr. Goodman and Mr. Christie indicated support for this suggestion.

There being no further comments, the chair adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by
Charles W. Finley